

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEETING OF OECD COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES WORKING PARTIES,
APRIL 10 - 12, 1978

1. SUMMARY. WORKING PARTIES 10, 13 AND 11 OF OECD
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS
PRACTICES (RBP'S) MET ON APRIL 10, 11 AND 12, RESPECTIVE-
LY. MEETINGS WERE MAINLY ROUTINE REVIEWS OF REPORTS
TO BE MADE TO FULL COMMITTEE. LUNCH BETWEEN BIAC AND
BUREAU OF RBP COMMITTEE PLANNED FOR JUNE 7. U.S. DEL
NOTED STIFFENING ATTITUDE ON COOPERATION ON RBP'S BY
DUTCH AND U.K., WHILE SWISS MORE COOPERATIVE AND
FRENCH MORE INTERESTED. END SUMMARY

2. WP 10 ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND RBP'S REVIEWED
ITS DRAFT REPORT AND DECIDED, IN VIEW OF THE NEED FOR
SOME REVISIONS AND THE FACT THAT SOME DELEGATIONS HAD
NOT HAD ADEQUATE TIME TO REVIEW THE DRAFT CONCLUSIONS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS, TO MEET AGAIN ON OCTOBER 5 AND
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POSSIBLY OCTOBER 6, 1978, TO MAKE FINAL REVISIONS TO THE
REPORT. WP-10 INTENDS TO SUBMIT ITS REPORT TO THE FULL
COMMITTEE AT LATTER'S MEETING IN DECEMBER, 1978. THE
WORKING PARTY WILL ALSO CONSIDER AT ITS OCTOBER MEETING
WHETHER TO SEEK NEW WORK, PARTICULARLY A STUDY OF
RBP'S IN THE PROFESSIONS.

3. WP 13 ON BUYING POWER REVISED THE DRAFT OUTLINE OF ITS STUDY AND THE DRAFT QUESTIONNAIRE ON THIS SUBJECT PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT. THE REVISED DOCUMENTS WILL BE CIRCULATED TO WORKING PARTY MEMBERS FOR FINAL COMMENTS BY MAIL. THE SECRETARIAT INTENDS TO ISSUE THE QUESTIONNAIRE IN JUNE WITH A SIX-MONTH TIME LIMIT FOR ANSWERS. IN VIEW OF THIS, THE WORKING PARTY DECIDED NOT TO MEET IN OCTOBER, BUT WILL SCHEDULE A MEETING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FULL COMMITTEE'S MEETING IN DECEMBER, 1978. AT THAT TIME IT WILL CONSIDER THE PRELIMINARY REPORTS SUBMITTED BY ITS MEMBERS AND A POSSIBLE PRELIMINARY PAPER BY THE SECRETARIAT BASED UPON PUBLISHED SCHOLARLY WORKS IN THE FIELD OF BUYING POWER.

4. WP 11 ON MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES AND RBP'S MET TO REVISE THE DRAFT COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION ON THIS SUBJECT. THE REVISIONS MADE WERE EXTENSIVE, GENERALLY WEAKENING THE RECOMMENDATION, PARTICULARLY IN CONNECTION WITH INFORMATION ISSUES. NETHERLANDS, CANADIAN, U.K. AND BELGIAN DELEGATIONS WERE PARTICULARLY STRONG AGAINST EXTENSION OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE AND COOPERATION IN THIS AREA. NETHERLANDS DELEGATE EXPRESSED GENERAL OPPOSITION TO INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING CONTROL OF RBP'S GENERALLY. THE REVISED RECOMMENDATION WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE OECD RBP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMITTEE AT ITS PLENARY SESSION IN JUNE, 1978.

5. WP 11 ALSO DISCUSSED A REQUEST BY BIAC FOR CONSULTATIONS ON RBP MATTERS. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE OECD SECRETARIAT WILL CONTACT BIAC AND SUGGEST THAT THE BUREAU OF THE RBP COMMITTEE MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF BIAC AT A LUNCHEON ON JUNE 7, 1978 DURING THE RBP COMMITTEE MEETING.

6. COMMENT: U.S. DEL NOTES SOME STIFFENING OF ATTITUDES AGAINST COOPERATION IN RBP MATTERS ON THE PART OF NETHERLANDS AND U.K. REPRESENTATIVES IN PARTICULAR. SWISS ATTITUDE, BY CONTRAST, IS MUCH MORE COOPERATIVE THAN IN THE PAST. ALSO FRENCH DELEGATE AT WP 11 WAS ANDRE MANCER-BEZE, A HIGHER-RANKING OFFICIAL THAN IN OTHER WORKING PARTIES. HIS PRESENCE AND ACTIONS INDICATE GREATER FRENCH INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT THAN PREVIOUSLY.
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